

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing additional error detection for at least some signaling bits for wireless communication of bits from a sending device to a receiving device, the sending device and the receiving device using a CRC code or some other error detection method to protect bits conveyed over a protected channel by conveying not only the protected bits but also error detection bits, the protected channel being a channel other than the channel over which the signaling bits are conveyed, the method characterized by:

a step (31 32) in which the sending device computes the error detection bits based not only on the protected bits but also based on the signaling bits, and transmits the error detection bits so computed with the protected bits and also transmits the signaling bits, but on another channel.

2. A method as in claim 1, further characterized by:

a step (33) in which the receiving device detects errors, based not only on the protected bits but also on the transmitted signaling bits.

3. A method as in claim 2, further comprising a step (34) in which the receiving device discards at least some bits of a frame if an error is detected in the signaling bits, and asks the sending device to retransmit the frame, but does not add to a buffer for soft-combining the discarded bits.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the signaling bits comprise bits indicating a TFCI for a data channel, and the bits that are discarded in case of detecting an error are the bits conveyed by the data channel.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein the signaling bits are

conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel.

6. A method as in claim 5, wherein the signaling bits include bits indicating a TFCI, and the further channel is a traffic channel.

5 7. A method as in claim 1, wherein the channel used to convey the signaling bits and the protected channel are both control channels used to decode a further channel.

8. A method as in claim 7, wherein the signaling bits convey a TFCI, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

10 9. A method as in claim 7, wherein the protected channel is time multiplexed with the further channel.

10. A method as in claim 7, wherein the protected channel is code multiplexed with the further channel.

15 11. A method as in claim 1, wherein the protected channel is a traffic channel.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein the signaling bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel, and the protected channel is better protected than the further channel.

20 13. A method as in claim 1, wherein the error detection method involves computing a CRC code value based on the bits to be protected.

25 14. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication device, with said computer program code characterized in that it

includes instructions for performing the steps of the method of claim 1.

15. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication device, with said computer program code characterized in that it includes instructions for performing the steps of the method of claim 2.

16. An apparatus for use by a wireless telecommunications device (20a) in providing additional error detection for at least some signaling bits for wireless communication of bits, the device (20a) using a CRC code or some other error detection method to protect bits conveyed over a protected channel by conveying not only the protected bits but also error detection bits, the protected channel being a channel other than the channel over which the signaling bits are conveyed, the apparatus characterized by:

means (21 22) by which, when transmitting, the device (20a) computes the error detection bits based not only on the protected bits, but also based on the signaling bits, and transmits the error detection bits so computed with the protected bits and also transmits the signaling bits but on another channel.

17. An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the device (20a) is a UE device.

18. An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the device (20a) is an access point of a telecommunications network.

19. An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the signaling bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel.

20. An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the signaling bits include bits indicating a TFCI, and the further channel is a traffic channel.

21. An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the channel used to convey the signaling bits and the protected channel are both control channels used to decode a further channel.

22. An apparatus as in claim 21, wherein the signaling bits convey a TFCI, and the protected channel is an outband signaling channel.

23. An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the protected channel is time multiplexed with the further channel.

24. An apparatus as in claim 19, wherein the protected channel is code multiplexed with the further channel.

25. An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the protected channel is a traffic channel.

26. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the signaling bits are conveyed by a control channel used to decode a further channel, and the protected channel is better protected than the further channel.

27. An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the error detection method involves computing a CRC code value based on the bits to be protected.

28. An apparatus for use by a wireless telecommunications device (20b) in providing additional error detection for at least some signaling bits for wireless communication of bits, the device (20b) using a CRC code or some other error detection method to protect bits conveyed over a protected channel by

conveying not only the protected bits but also error detection bits, the protected channel being a channel other than the channel over which the signaling bits are conveyed, the apparatus characterized by:

5 means (27) by which, when receiving, the device (20b) detects errors based not only on the protected bits but also on the transmitted signaling bits.

29. An apparatus as in claim 28, wherein the device (20b) is an access point of a telecommunications network.

10 30. An apparatus as in claim 28, wherein the device (20b) is a UE device.

31. An apparatus as in claim 28, further comprising means (28) by which when receiving, the device (20b) discards at least some bits of a frame if an error is detected in the signaling bits,
15 and requests retransmission of the discarded bits, but does not add the discarded bits to a buffer for soft-combining.

32. An apparatus as in claim 31, wherein the signaling bits comprise bits indicating a TFCI for a data channel, and the bits that are discarded in case of detecting an error are the bits
20 conveyed by the data channel.

33. A system, comprising a first wireless telecommunications device (20a) including an apparatus as in claim 16, and also a second wireless telecommunications device (20b).

34. A system, comprising a first wireless telecommunications
25 device (20a), and further comprising a second wireless telecommunications device (20b) including an apparatus as in claim 28.